

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	§	Group Art Unit: 2164
James L. Platt, <i>et al.</i>	§	
	§	Examiner: Mahmood, Rezwanul
Serial No.: 10/612,701	§	
	§	Atty Docket No.: AUS920030396US1
Filed: 07/02/2003	§	
	§	Customer No.: 34533
Title: Populating A Database Using	§	
Inferred Dependencies	§	Confirmation No.: 5875
	§	

Mail Stop: Appeal Brief-Patents
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

REPLY TO EXAMINER'S ANSWER DATED JANUARY 10, 2008

Dear Sir:

This is a Reply Brief submitted in response to the Examiner's Answer dated January 10, 2008 (hereafter "Reply Brief"). Claims 1-18 are in the case. Applicants present the following remarks demonstrating that the case is in condition for allowance.

Appeal Brief

Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner's Answer states that the Appeal Brief filed on October 15, 2007, contains the correct Real Party in Interest, Related Appeals and Interferences, Status of Claims, Status of Amendments After Final, Summary of Claimed Subject Matter, Grounds of Rejection to be Review on Appeal, and Claims Appendix. As such, the case is in condition to be heard by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Status of claims in accordance with 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(iii): Eighteen (18) claims are filed in the original application in this case. Claims 1-18 are rejected in the Office Action. Claims 1-18 are on appeal.

GROUND OF REJECTION

In accordance with 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(vi), Appellants provide the following concise statement for each ground of rejection:

1. Claims 1, 7, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Weissman, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,524).
2. Claims 2, 8, and 14 stand rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weissman, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,524), in view of Veronese, et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0210445).
3. Claims 3-6, 9-12, and 15-18 stand rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weissman, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,524), in view of Veronese, et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0210445) and further in view of Medicke, et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0236786).

ARGUMENTS

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 OVER WEISSMAN

Claims 1, 7, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Weissman, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,524). Independent claim 1 recites a “method for populating a database, the method comprising: providing a database having a schema; inferring from the schema dependencies among a fact table and related dimension tables; and inserting, in accordance with the dependencies, rows of data into the fact table and rows of data into the dimension tables.”

Weissman Does Not Disclose Inferring From The Schema Dependencies Among A Fact Table And Related Dimension Tables

The Examiner’s Answer dated January 10, 2008 (hereafter, ‘Examiner’s Answer’) takes the position that Weissman at column 3, lines 1-2; column 3, lines 36-38; column 5, lines 36-32; column 7, lines 42-49; and column 10, lines 24-42 discloses the second element of claim 1: inferring from the schema dependencies among a fact table and related dimension tables. Appellants respectfully note in response, however, that what Weissman at column 3, lines 1-2, in fact discloses is “[t]he schema defines the relationships between the tables and columns.” Weissman at column 3, lines 1-2; column 3, lines 36-38; column 5, lines 26-32; column 7, lines 42-49; and column 10, lines 24-42, discloses a star schema with fact tables and dimension tables, building a datamart from a schema definition of the sources of the data, and a schema definition process that includes determining business processes, defining star schema, defining sources of data, and so on. Weissman’s star schema, building a datamart from a schema definition of the sources of data, and schema definition process does not disclose inferring from the schema dependencies among a fact table and related dimension tables as claimed in the present application. Weissman, neither at these reference points nor anywhere else in Weissman, makes any mention of inferring dependencies among a fact table and related dimension tables from the schema. A dependency comprises a rule for the database,

enforced by a database management system, that a first record in a first table must exist in the database before a second record in a second table may be inserted in the database. *See*, Applicants' original specification at page 13, lines 8-11. Weissman, at the reference points cited above and all other points in Weissman, does not disclose that any rule for the database that a first record in a fact table must exist in the database before a second record in related dimension table may be inserted in the database, can be inferred from Weissman's schema. That is, Weissman does not disclose a dependency as recited in the present application. In fact, the term "dependency" does not appear in Weissman – not even once. The mere existence of fact tables and dimension tables in Weissman is not enough to disclose inferring dependencies among a fact table and related dimension tables from the schema, and inserting data according to inferred dependencies. As such, Weissman does not anticipate Appellants' claims, and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Relations Among Claims

Independent claim 1 claims method aspects of populating a database according to embodiments of the present invention. Independent claims 7 and 13 respectively claim system and computer program product aspects of populating a database according to embodiments of the present application. For the same reason that Weissman does not disclose or enable a method for populating a database, therefore, Weissman also does not disclose or enable either a system or a computer program product for populating a database corresponding to independent claims 7 and 13. Independent claims 7 and 13 are therefore patentable and should be allowed.

Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 depend respectively from independent claims 1, 7, and 13. Each dependent claim includes all of the limitations of the independent claim from which it depends. Because Weissman does not disclose or enable each and every element of the independent claims, Weissman also does not disclose or enable each and every element of the dependent claims of the present application. As such, claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 are also patentable and should be allowed.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 OVER
WEISSMAN, VERONESE, AND MEDICKE**

Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 stand rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over some combination of Weissman, Veronese, and Medicke. The question of whether Applicants' claims are obvious or not is examined in light of: (1) the scope and content of the prior art; (2) the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art; (3) the level of ordinary skill in the art; and (4) any relevant secondary considerations, including commercial success, long felt but unsolved needs, and failure of others. *KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, No. 04-1350, slip op. at 2 (U.S. April 30, 2007). Although Applicants recognize that such an inquiry is an expansive and flexible one, the Office Action must nevertheless demonstrate a prima facie case of obviousness to reject Applicants' claims for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). *In re Khan*, 441 F.3d 977, 985-86 (Fed. Cir. 2006). To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the proposed combination of the references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 985, 180 USPQ 580, 583 (CCPA 1974). Dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 depend from independent claims 1, 7, and 13 and include all the limitations of the independent claims from which they depend. In rejecting dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18, the Examiner's Answer relies on Weissman as disclosing each and every element of independent claims 1, 7, and 13. As shown above, Weissman in fact does not disclose each and every element of independent claims 1, 7, and 13. Because Weissman does not disclose each and every element of independent claims 1, 7, and 13, no combination of Weissman, Veronese, and Medicke can possibly disclose each and every element of dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18. No combination of Weissman, Veronese, and Medicke, therefore, can be used to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, and the rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 7, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Weissman. Weissman does not disclose each and every element of Appellants' claims, and Weissman therefore does not anticipate Appellants' claims within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 1, 7, and 13 are therefore patentable and should be allowed. Appellants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1, 7, and 13.

Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 stand rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of Weissman, Veronese, and Medicke. No combination of Weissman, Veronese, and Medicke teaches or suggests each and every element of Appellants' claims. Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 are therefore patentable and should be allowed. Appellants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18.

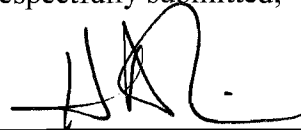
In view of the forgoing arguments, reversal on all grounds of rejection is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 09-0447 for any fees required or overpaid.

Date: March 10, 2008

By: _____

Respectfully submitted,



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